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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

YUGOSLAV PHARMACEUTICAL FACTORY MEETS FIVE-YEAR PLAN;
INCREASE PRICES OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES, DRUGS

"PLIVA" FACTORY FULFILLS PLAN -- Zagreb, Borba, 19 Dec 51

Zagreb, 18 December -- The "Pliva" Pharmaceutical Factory today fulfilled its Five-Year Plan. The 1951 plan, which was 2½ times larger than the plan for 1947, was exceeded .3 percent.

The factory now produces medical preparations and pharmaceuticals which were previously imported; its products include copper, silver, and aluminum salts, and pure chemicals for laboratory use.

CRITICIZE PRICE INCREASES ON MEDICAL SUPPLIES, DRUGS -- Belgrade, Republika, 30 Oct 51

Almost one third of the inhabitants of Yugoslavia are insured with the Bureau for Insuring Workers and Officials. All paid state employees, some members of cooperatives, a large number from the private sector, and the members of their families are included. In addition to other social and social security benefits, insured persons are given free medical services and drugs.

All uninsured workers from the private sector, farmers who are not members of cooperatives, members of the free professions, artisans, and members of their families must use and pay for private medical services, and must buy drugs at retail in state drugstores at prices established by the state.

On 1 October, the price of all drug products was increased sixfold. This blanket increase is absurd, as is shown by the following examples.

Sodium bicarbonate can be purchased on the free market for 500 dinars less per kilogram than in city drugstores. Ninety-five percent pure alcohol, which is sold to liquor distilleries for 350 dinars per kilogram, is sold at 2,100 dinars for medical use. The price of sugar in drugstores has been increased to 1,500 dinars per kilogram; in markets and state food stores the price is 200-250 dinars, and is to be decreased to 175 dinars.

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It is understandable when the retail price of sulfathiazole, which costs the government 14 foreign exchange dinars per kilogram, is increased to 360 dinars, but it is incomprehensible that domestic camomile tea, which does not cost more than 180 dinars, is increased to 1,800 dinars.

On 20 October 1951, the prices of a large number of rubber and glass products were reduced. The citizenry is awaiting further decreases, for only thus can a realistic ratio be achieved between drug prices and the prices of other industrial products.

The following table shows the increase in prices of drug products:

Drugs and Medical Supplies	Quantity	State Established Prices				Factor of Increase
		1941	1949	1950	1 Oct 1951	
Domestic pyramidon 0.3 gr.	10 tablets	8	20	20	120	x15
"Bayer" aspirin 0.5 gr.	20 "	15			no longer imported	
Domestic aspirin 0.5 gr.	20 "	5	20	30	180	x36
Quinine tablets 0.25 gr.	20 "	13	20	50	300	x23
Linden flower	1 kilogram	25	270	270	1620	x65
Camomile tea	1 "	30	260	300	1800	x60
Root of marshmallow	1 "	40	80	350	2100	x52½
Peppermint tea	1 "	60	200	400	2400	x40
Rubber for irrigator tubes	1 "	120	335	450	2700(1)	x22½
Rubber ice bags (25 cm.)	1 each	40	100	220	1320(2)	x33
Enamel'd. irrigator of 1 liter capacity	1 "	24	—	—	948(3)	x39½
Maximal thermometer	1 "	15	45	150	900(4)	x60
Eyedroppers	1 "	1	8	15	90(5)	x90
Sodium bicarbonate	1 kilogram	14	—	120	720	x51
95 percent pure alcohol	1 "	168	180	350	2100	x12½
Sugar (sucrose)	1 "	15	225	250	1500	x100

(1) Reduced to 1,040 dinars on 20 October 1951.

(2) " " 400 " " " " "

(3) " " 350 " " " " "

(4) " " 500 " " " " "

(5) " " 20 " " " " "

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